



Community Appearance Commission

Minutes June 4, 2008

The regular meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order Wednesday, June 4, 2008, at 4 p.m. by Barbara Perry, Chair, in the Council Chamber located at 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

Present: Connie Baker, Greta Connor, Suzette Davis , Diane Gibbs, Barbara Lawther, Sean Meyers, Barbara Perry, Sara Robinson, Bill Safrit, and Tom Wolpert

Absent: Suzanne Casey

Staff: Diana Moghrabi and Lynn Raker

The minutes of the May 7, 2008, meeting were approved with one minor correction. A photograph was taken.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Neighborhoods & Education Committee

- Greta Connor reported that CAC issues were taken to City Council when the 2008-2009 budget was considered. Members of the community (12 neighborhoods represented) addressed Council and requested Council's support on issues such as better housing and stricter code enforcement. The outcome was positive. It is reported that City Council approved the hiring of two people and the restructuring of a code enforcement division.

Staff added that money had been appropriated for a code enforcement division—A Manager and a Specialist position. There is capital funding for a vehicle and the location at Park Avenue.

Greta Connor and Barbara Perry called neighborhood leaders prior to the City Council meeting to request they attend the meeting. The neighborhood leaders came to speak at the public hearing. They were organized to advocate a budget that allows a housing commission and an additional code enforcement officer at the May 20 City Council meeting. This effort tipped the scales for housing improvements.

- A subcommittee met Thursday, May 22, 2008, at 4 p.m., at City Hall in the first floor conference room to discuss the vicious dog issue. Information was gathered and grievances heard in the presence of the Animal Control Officer of the Salisbury Police

Department. Officer Ann Frye is in favor of stricter laws and made recommendations. The CAC will not pursue this item further. Lynn Raker will provide a full written report at a later date.

- Greta Connor reported that SNAG was well attended today. They voiced further concerns about boarded up houses. Greta told them about the CAC efforts regarding the matter. Rental properties are of great concern, particularly at Lafayette and Park Avenue. There is an outcry to strengthen the housing code and inspect between rentals. A housing commission is requested by the public.
- Lou Manning represented Park Avenue at the SNAG meeting regarding their housing problems and safety issues. There was a general cry for help.
- There are continued concerns about the appearance of Long Street; it looks bad. Ask Steve Weatherford if they are able to spray and cut weeds.
- Barbara Lawther asked staff to consider the safety of pedestrian traffic on Club Drive in the area of 11th Street. There is a gap in sidewalks on the curve, and she is afraid that someone will get hurt. This area is well traveled by families on foot.
- Downtown Salisbury, Inc. is spearheading a commercial maintenance effort.
- Bill Safrit and several others asked the city to be more assertive about enforcing the “no parking in front lawns” now that provisions have been made in the Land Development Ordinance. It was suggested that CAC sponsor a campaign to educate the public. The “Spruce Up” inserts can be used in the fall and spring to notify residents.

Greta Connor also has concerns about oversized trucks in her neighborhood. She requested staff copy CAC on these sections of the City Code.

Art in Public Places

- The subcommittee had their third meeting about the annual sculpture show.
- June 28 there will be a brunch at the Rowan Museum for the dedication of the Wiley Lash plaque. Invitations have been mailed. The plaque will be installed on the wall at 132 N. Main Street, where Wiley Lash served as mayor of Salisbury 1981-1985. Former mayors and members of the city council have been invited. It will be a nice event.
- It was reported that the Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Grant of \$7,500 was awarded for the Cotton Mill project. Lynn Raker advised the CAC that she had submitted the application at the April 2, 2008 meeting. This will be applied to the tree planting at the pocket park.

Other grants include \$5,000 from the Blanche and Julian Robertson Foundation for the tiles the schoolchildren will produce.

- The Woodson Foundation has awarded funding for two more of the plaques.
- The basics of the sculpture show have been worked out.

Landscaping

Suzette Davis reported that, after much pruning, planting and preening, the Landscape of the Month (LOM) Committee met prior to today's CAC meeting. The residential winner is the home of Kay and Norde Wilson, 501 Maupin Ave; commercial winner is Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church, 719 S Caldwell St.

Diane Gibbs will keep a photographic archive of the LOM properties. The signs are currently up at 1505 Statesville Boulevard and 531 E. Innes Street locations. Staff received a nomination for 105 Larch Road in Westcliffe for the residential award. Other nominations include Cloninger Ford.

The committee wishes to document the comments of the recipients about what it means to receive the recognition of LOM.

Grants

Most of the available funding has been allocated for the Municipal Service District (MSD) Grants and the Innes Street Grants (ISG). Lynn Raker reported that Mickey Black will not do his project at the Emporium this cycle. A couple of other projects (OK Wig, Arba Knapp, and Doug Jones Post Card Art) received this money. A spreadsheet recapping the grants (approximately 20) will be made available at the August 2008 meeting. The new fiscal year begins in July.

The new budget includes \$22,000 for MSD Grants and \$25,000 for ISG. Staff hopes to address amendments to the grant guidelines in FY 2008-2009.

NEW BUSINESS

The new budget has been approved by City Council and it looks like the CAC will be receiving the following for their projects.

History and Art Trail.....	\$10,000
Cultural Action Plan	\$40,000 (10,000 for sculpture show)
Neighborhood Signs.....	\$3,200
Trash receptacle and benches.....	\$5,000
CAC Programs (Adopt a Street and Fall Spruce Up)	\$2,250
Appropriations Account.....	\$800

The Chair thanked Mark Lewis for his guidance and support.

Lunches will be limited in the 2008-2009; we need to go back to the “Dutch Treat.”

OLD BUSINESS

Lynn Raker followed up on complaints heard at the last CAC meeting regarding the main post office at 605 East Innes Street. The new manager, Doris Reed, admitted that they have problems with vagrants and vandalism. Lynn has offered to work with her to find some remedies such as taking out old landscaping and replacing with fresh, lower plantings.

Lynn also reported that the new plantings will be installed near Interstate 85, in the medians, during the next several weeks. (Note: A heat wave hit Salisbury the week of this meeting.)

OTHER BUSINESS

Leadership Rowan gifted money to buy overhead “festoon” lighting for the 100 block of Fisher Street.

The CAC was complimented by a hired consultant as the “most highly functioning committee we have in Salisbury.”

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next regular CAC meeting will be August 6, 2008. Traditionally there is no meeting in July.